

elected by and from the qualified voters of the city for terms of four years each in the manner provided by Article III of this Charter, provided they shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

“Sec. 2.4. Mayor Pro Tempore. In accordance with applicable State laws, the Board of Aldermen shall elect one of its members to act as Mayor Pro Tempore to perform the duties of the Mayor in the Mayor’s absence or disability. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the Board.

“ARTICLE III.

“Elections.

“Sec. 3.1. Regular municipal elections; conduct and method of election. Beginning in 1989, regular municipal elections shall be held in the city every four years in odd-numbered years, and shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall be elected according to the partisan primary and election method of election, as set out in G.S. 163-291.

“Sec. 3.2. Election of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. (a) The Mayor shall be nominated and elected by all the voters of the city voting at large.

(b) One member of the Board of Aldermen shall be nominated and elected by all the voters of the city voting at large. Six members of the Board of Aldermen shall reside in and represent the wards of the city, but shall be nominated and elected by all the voters of the city voting at large.

“Sec. 3.3. Wards; ward boundaries. (a) The city shall continue to be divided into six single-member wards, with the ward boundaries being drawn so that each ward includes, as nearly as possible, the same number of persons residing therein.

(b) The ward boundaries shall be those existing at the time of the ratification of this charter, as the same are set forth on an official map of the city. An official map, showing the current ward boundaries, shall be maintained permanently in the office of the City Clerk, and shall be available for public inspection.

(c) In accordance with State law, the Board of Aldermen shall be authorized to revise from time to time the ward boundaries of the city. Upon alteration of the ward boundaries pursuant to law, the Board shall cause the appropriate changes to be made in the official map.

“ARTICLE IV.

“Organization and Administration.

“Sec. 4.1. Form of government. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, the city shall operate under the council-manager form of government, in accordance with Part 2 of Article 7 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.

“Sec. 4.2. City Manager. The Board of Aldermen shall appoint a City Manager who shall be the chief administrator of city government, and who shall be responsible to the Board for the proper administration of the affairs of the city. The Manager shall be appointed on the basis of merit